

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 00835 301705Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 097223

O 301616Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7228

INFO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ATHENS 835

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PFOR GR US NATO

SUBJECT: GREECE'S SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH US AND NATO;

PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS IN FEBRUARY

1. WHEN I SPOKE TO FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS EARLIER TODAY ON ANOTHER SUBJECT (SEPTOL), HE INFORMED ME THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT SOME TIME IN THE PERIOD FEB 1-5 ABOUT FORTHCOMING "NEGOTIATIONS" CONCERNING GREECE'S SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US AND NATO. HE SAID THAT HIS STRONG PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT PERSONALLY ON SATURDAY, FEB 1 WHEN HE HAS HIS WEEKLY MEETING WITH THE GREEK PRESS. IN ANY CASE, HE SAID HE VERY MUCH WANTS TO MAKE IT IN THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF FEBRUARY AND WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE OPENING OF BILATERAL TALKS WITH US IN ATHENS ON MONDAY, FEB 10.

2. I ASKED BITSIOS WHAT HE WANTED TO SAY IN THE WAY OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT (WHICH TO SOME EXTENT IS OBVIOUSLY DIRECTED AT THE GREEK PARLIAMENT WHERE SOME ARE ITCHING TO CHASTISE THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS SLOWNESS IN MOVING AHEAD ON THIS MATTER). BITSIOS SAID HE WAS THINKING OF MAKING A STATEMENT ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "DURING THE COURSE OF THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY NEGOTIATIONS WILL START BOTH IN BRUSSELS AND IN ATHENS ON THE QUESTIONS OF THE CHANGING POSITION OF GREECE IN THE ATLANTIC

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ATHENS 00835 301705Z

ALLIANCE".

3. BITSIOS INQUIRED WHETHER WE HAD ANY OBJECTION TO HIM MAKING SUCH A STATEMENT. I SAID THAT I WOULD INQUIRE OF WASHINGTON BUT OFFHAND HAD TWO QUESTIONS OF MY OWN. FIRST, WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THE TERM "NEGOTIATIONS", INASMUCH AS I HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT OUR OPENING TALKS FEB 10TH HAD BEEN ENVISAGED AS SOMETHING LESS FORMAL AND STRUCTURED THAN "NEGOTIATIONS"? BITSIOS SAID THAT THE TALKS WOULD PROCEED ALONG THE LINES WE HAD EARLIER AGREED BUT THAT HE WANTED TO CHARACTERIZE THEM AS THE "OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS." HE FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION IN GREECE THAT THE GREEK GOVT WAS NOT MERELY DANCING AROUND THESE ISSUES BUT WAS IN FACT FORMALLY BEGINNING A PROCESS THAT COULD BE EXPECTED TO LEAD TO CONCRETE DECISIONS AND RESULTS AT SOME POINT.

4. MY SECOND QUESTION TO HIM RELATED TO HIS INDICATED OPENING OF PARALLEL "NEGOTIATIONS" IN BRUSSELS. I SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WOULD HAVE AMPLE TIME FOR A FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH GREECE BEFORE "NEGOTIATIONS" WERE ACTUALLY UNDERTAKEN IN BRUSSELS. I WAS NOT AT ALL SURE THAT THPS COULD HAPPEN IN THE TIME FRAME BEGINNING FEB 10TH AND BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY. BITSIOS REPLIED THAT THIS ALSO WAS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH OUR EARLIER UNDERSTANDINGS. HE ENVISAGED HAVING THE GREEK AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS PROPOSE TO OPEN THIS SUBJECT SOMETIME "TOWARD THE END OF FEBRUARY" AND THAT THE INITIAL PHASE THERE WOULD BE A DISCUSSION OF THE VARIOUS "HEADINGS AND POINTS" THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN UP SUBSEQUENTLY IN BRUSSELS. HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE MOVING INTO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS IN BRUSSELS. UNTIL THERE HAD BEEN AMPLE TIME FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE USG AND GOG IN ATHENS.

5. I TOLD BITSIOS THAT I WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY AND LET HIM KNOW AS SOON AS I HAD RECEIVED A RESPONSE. HE REQUESTED THAT WE SEEK TO GIVE HIM A RESPONSE BEFORE HIS SATURDAY MORNING MEETING WITH THE PRESS, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ATHENS 00835 301705Z

KUBISCH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS00835
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750034-0766
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975018/aaaaagrm.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <10 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREECE'S SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH US AND NATO; PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS IN FEBRUARY
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US, NATO, (BITSIOS, DIMITRIOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006